



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF HUNTING AND FISHING

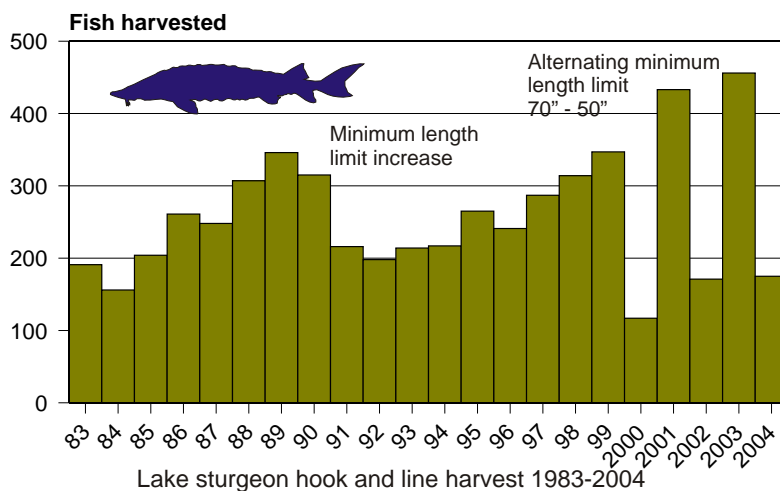
Safeguarding Wisconsin's Outdoor Experience

Lake Sturgeon Hook and Line Tag

Wisconsin possesses one of the largest reproducing and one of the few harvested populations of lake sturgeon in North America. There are currently two harvest seasons for lake sturgeon in Wisconsin: 1) a winter ice spearing season on Lake Winnebago each February, and 2) a six-week fall hook and line season on some of our large rivers and boundary waters (the one exception being a year-round season on Lake Superior). For both fisheries there is a bag limit of one sturgeon per person per season, a tag must be obtained in advance of fishing, and all fish taken must be registered.

The fee for the ice spearing tag is \$20.00 for residents and \$50.00 for non residents. No other license is needed. Funds from these fees must be used on monitoring and management activities for sturgeon on the Lake Winnebago system. Approximately \$170,000 is generated from sturgeon spearing tags each year.

To fish for sturgeon during the hook-and-line season you need a valid fishing license and must also obtain a free sturgeon tag.



Although sturgeon management on the Lake Winnebago system is funded from revenues generated from the sturgeon spearing tag, inland and boundary water sturgeon management activities such as population restoration, harvest monitoring, habitat improvements, and population assessments, is funded from general fishing license revenues.

Some anglers have suggested that a fee structure be adopted for hook-and-line sturgeon tags similar to that for Lake Winnebago ice spearing with the funding going to sturgeon propagation and management work on these other waters.

Although we currently issue around 9,000 free sturgeon tags, it is likely that this number would decline significantly if tags were not free. Consequently, it is difficult to estimate how much additional revenue would be generated. But if all persons currently receiving free tags purchased the new tag, it could generate a significant fund for critical sturgeon management work.

Hook and Line Sturgeon Tag Proposal: The hook and line sturgeon tag would be included in the patron license (at no extra cost to the patron). Individual tags would be sold for \$20 to residents and \$50 to non-residents. If an angler intends to harvest a sturgeon, a tag must be purchased. A tag would not be needed if the angler is strictly catch and release fishing. Tags would not be transferable, and because sturgeon must be tagged immediately, the tag must be purchased prior to fishing. All revenue from the hook and line sturgeon tags would be dedicated to enhancing sturgeon management activities outside the Lake Winnebago system.

For complete information on proposed fee packages and how you can invest in Wisconsin's outdoors, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/invest>.

